

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-5 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. New claims 3-5 have been added. No new matter has been added as a result of the above amendments.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 2 for missing punctuation. Claim 2 has been amended and this objection is thus obviated.

Rejections under 35 USC 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Tarr et al. (6.084,587). Tarr et al. show a method and apparatus for generating and interfacing with a haptic virtual reality environment. However, the present invention is distinct from Tarr et al. in that it is directed to use for surgical training and thus forms a virtual object with multiple layers that is represented by a poly-form mesh. The multiple layers are particularly important in surgical applications because different properties can be applied each layer and abnormalities beneath the skin, such as a tumor, can be identified. In view of the present amendments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

Conclusion

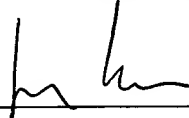
In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner find the pending claims 1-5 allowable and issue a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (617) 854-4237 should she determine that a telephonic interview would expedite prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Bharti Temkin, et al., Applicants

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By: 

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